REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 9-37 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 11, 19, 26 and 28-29 are independent.

Claim Objection

Claim 34 has been objected to because of a minor informality, which has been corrected. Accordingly, this objection should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 1-6, 9-14, 19-21, 25-30, 32, 33 and 35-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maniwa (U.S. Patent No. 5,764,866) in view of Blumberg (U.S. Patent No. 6,708,309). Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maniwa (U.S. Patent No. 5,764,866) in view of Blumberg (U.S. Patent No. 6,708,309) and further in view of Ferguson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,237,011). Claims 11, 14-19, 21-24, 33 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maniwa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,768,483) in view of Blumberg (U.S. Patent No. 6,708,309). These rejections, insofar as they pertain to the presently pending claims, are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' embodied invention relates to generating scan files that carry their own prescription for further handling them in a server. The scanner has a number of scan job specifications (e.g., scan job types) stored in its local memory, for an operator to select one for a particular scanning operation. The scanner scans the document, thereby generating a file of scan data, and provides metadata (as defined in the scan job type) into that file, the metadata specifying how the file must be further processed.

Then, the scan data file including the metadata is transferred to an image server. The image server reads the metadata and routs the scan data to an application for further processing, the particular application being selected based on information in the metadata. An advantage of this feature of Applicants' embodied invention is that the processes of scanning and further processing are decoupled in time. The scanning process (with the further processing selection) and the server process (implementing/directing the further processing) are, however, still

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connected by the metadata. Consequently, the further processing may still be done automatically, e.g., even if there is a delay between the scan process and the arrival in the server, there is no need to specify the further handling process and starting it up (see the present specification, e.g., page 12, lines 2-4).

This is not possible in the applied references. Both Maniwa's disclose a certain processing of the scan data in the scanner device, as specified by the scan file, which only formats the image data. See Fig. 6, reference numeral 131 in Maniwa '866, where a "scan file" is a job specification. Further, this image processing in each Maniwa may also be done in the scan server/file server (e.g., Fig. 9 of Maniwa '866), but there is no disclosure or evidence of any processing specification being present in the scan image file itself. Moreover, any processing in Maniwa's scan server only relates to image formatting, not to routing the scan data to an application for further processing.

That is, either Maniwa fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia,* "automatically synthesizing the scan data file including the scan data generated during the scanning step and meta data relating to the properties of said specific scan job type, said metadata also including data for selecting a certain further processing of the scan data in an image server and data for directing said selected further processing of the scan data in the image server;...automatically analyzing, upon reception of the scan data file in the image server, the scan data file as to the data contained therein; and automatically further processing the scan data file in the image server in a way specified by said meta data contained therein" as recited in independent claim 1 and similarly recited in other independent claims in a varying scope.

These deficiencies in both Maniwa's are correctly acknowledged by the Examiner. Thus, to overcome the deficiencies, the Examiner refers to Blumberg. However, Blumberg's disclosure refers to so-called "scalable" documents with images (column 2, lines 19-25), and also explains (column 1, lines 15-20) that digitally generated (Postscript) font characters are scalable, but raster graphics are not (column 1, lines 26-33). Scanned images are typically raster graphics. In other words, Blumberg is not relevant and cannot be combined because Applicants' invention deals with scanned images.

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Moreover, even if the references were combinable, assuming *arguendo*, Blumberg does not fill the deficiencies in either Maniwa, of an image file carrying its own further processing prescription. Blumberg is directed to generating a multi-resolution tiled (MRT) image file such as FlashPix file. The FlashPix concept may include metadata specifying parameters for transformations of the image data. However, these are not prescriptions (i.e., "data for selecting a certain further processing of the scan data" and/or "data for directing said selected further processing" as required in claim 1), but only parameters to be applied if someone wants to operate on the data.

The following description (especially the last part) of FlashPix on the Internet (http://www.leadtools.com/SDK/Raster/Formats/Raster-Format-FPX.htm) clearly rebuts the Examiner's allegation that FlashPix file may include it own further processing prescription (i.e., data for selecting and data for directing as recited in claim 1):

> The FlashPix file format was developed through the combined efforts of Eastman Kodak Company, Microsoft Corporation, Hewlett-Packard Company, and Live picture Inc..... The format of a FlashPix file is based on compound object storage, which allows storage of various kinds of data. A FlashPix file may consist of several "pages" where each "page" has storage for a source image, non-image data in the form of comments, transform data, and a stamp or thumbnail. Comments are used to store information pertaining to the image, not actual pixel data. This information may include image title, image subject, camera manufacturer, scan software version number, and so forth. In addition to the image itself, FlashPix files store transform information. This data indicates transformations which may be performed on the source image. By storing the transforms, the source image may be stored in its original state and transformed, using the stored transforms, at your discretion. A stamp, or thumbnail, provides a small bitmap representation of a FlashPix image.

Also, any processing of the FlashPix images in Blumberg is done in the client, not in the server. This is another reason why Blumberg cannot be relevant and does not overcome the deficiencies of either Maniwa.

The Examiner also relies Blumberg's fragmenting a document containing images to an image-less document with image references to support the Examiner's allegation. This is an operation that is done in the server. But any further processing according to the presently claimed

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invention must be specified in the file itself. This is not the case in Blumberg's fragmenting process, since the documents are just normal PDFs (see column 5 of Blumberg).

In other words, Blumberg discloses a server process for stripping images from a document file (which process is **not** selected by metadata in the document file and **not** automatically started upon reading the metadata by the server) and a specific image file format that contains parameters for any processing in a client (which processing is **not** selected by metadata in the document file and **not** started upon reading the metadata by the client).

Therefore, Blumberg clearly fails to teach or suggest at least the above noted features recited in independent claim 1. Other independent claims recite similar features in a varying scope. So, even if the references were combinable, assuming *arguendo*, the combination of references would still fail to teach or suggest the above-noted features recited in each of the independent claims. Also, Ferguson et al. does not overcome these deficiencies in the combination of the applied references.

Accordingly, the rejections are improper, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, Applicant(s) respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and earnestly solicits an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final, in that it raises no new issues but merely places the claims in a form more clearly patentable over the references of record. In the alternative, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final in that it reduces the issues for appeal.

Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong (Registration No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.
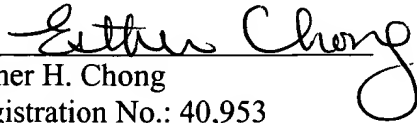
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By _____
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